

Remarks/Arguments

Status of Claims

Claims 1-2 and 4-18 are pending and claims 1-2 and 4-9 stand rejected, while claims 10-18 are withdrawn from consideration.

By this Amendment, claims 1 and 6 are amended and new claim 19 is added.

No new matter is presented by the claim amendments and new claim, and accordingly, entry and approval of same are submitted to be proper and respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) and 35 U.S.C. §103 (a)

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Publication 10-340727 (hereafter referred to as JP '727).

Claims 2 and 4-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 727.

Claim 1

Claim 1 is directed to a method of producing electrodes for a battery, and recites "processing a metal foil to include a plurality of concavities and convexities, at least one concavity and an adjacent convexity, adjacent to the at least one concavity, forming a gap in the metal foil therebetween." By locating the gap between the concavity and the adjacent convexity, the gap extends in a direction substantially orthogonal to the length of the current collector. Accordingly, by processing the current collector in this manner, for example, the force to separate the active material layer from the current collector is advantageously increased because portions of the metal foil retain the active layer.

JP '727 Reference

JP '727 relates to charge collectors and includes holes 201. (See FIGS. 6 and 12 of JP '727.) However, the holes in JP '727 extend in a direction substantially parallel to the length of the current collector.

Accordingly, JP '727 fails to disclose or suggest the above-mentioned processing step recited in claim 1. Applicants request that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Claims 2 and 4-5

Claims 2 and 4-5 each include all of the features of claim 1 from which they ultimately depend. Thus, claims 2 and 4-5 are also patentable over the cited art for at least the same reasons as set forth above for claim 1.

Claim 6

Claim 6, as amended, although not identical, includes patentable features similar to those of claim 1, and should be allowable for reasons similar to those set forth above for claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection of claim 6 be withdrawn.

Claim 7

Claim 7 includes all of the features of claim 6 from which it depends. Thus, claim 7 is also patentable over the cited art for at least the same reasons as set forth above for claim 6.

Claims 8 and 9

Claims 8 and 9 include all of the features of claim 1 or claim 6 from which they depend. Thus, claims 8 and 9 are also patentable over the cited art for at least the same reasons as set forth above for claim 1 or claim 6.

Reconsideration of claims 1-2 and 4-9 is respectfully requested.

Claim 19

New claim 19, which depends from claim 1, includes the subject matter of original claim 3 (now canceled) and is also patentable over the cited art for at least the same reasons as set forth above for claim 1.

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Conclusion

Accordingly, Applicants contend that the claims now pending and under consideration are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of all these claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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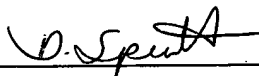
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